

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

SECDEF PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222330

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SCHLESINGER, JAMES R.) XG, NATO

SUBJECT: SECDEF VISIT TO FRANCE

REFS: PARIS 23437, 23671, 23623

1. FOLLOWING REPLIES TO SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR GUIDANCE ON
PARIS PORTION OF SECDEF'S EUROPEAN TRIP:

A. WE APPRECIATE ADVANCE PLANNING BY GOF AND EMBASSY FOR
FULL UTILIZATION OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S TIME IN FRANCE,
AND SCENARIO AS PROPOSED REFTEL PROVIDES GOOD INITIAL
SKETCH. FOR AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 30, BEGINNING AT 1300,
WE UNDERSTAND THAT FRENCH MOD HAS DEVELOPED TENTATIVE
ALTERNATIVE TO SCENARIO IN REFTEL, SUBSTITUTING VISITS TO
RHEIMS (A MECHANIZED BRIGADE OF FIRST ARMY); A NEARBY CEME-
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TERY FOR AMERICANS KILLED IN WORLD WAR 1; AND A TACTICAL

AIR DEMONSTRATION AT ISTRES. THIS ALTERNATIVE ITINERARY WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT LES BAUX AND NEARBY OVERNIGHT, AS PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED. YOU SHOULD INFORM MOD THAT WE PREFER THIS NEW ALTERNATIVE AND ENCOURAGE FRENCH OFFICIALS TO REVISE PLANS ACCORDINGLY. SECDEF VISIT TO CEMETERY SHOULD BE NO LONGER THAN NECESSARY FOR BRIEF CEREMONY TO HONOR AMERICANS KILLED IN FRANCE. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT SECDEF'S ARRIVAL TIME ON SEPTEMBER 28 AT ORLY (TENTATIVELY 1700) IS SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE SLIPPAGE, PENDING FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT TO FRG.

B. DINNER: WE UNDERSTAND THAT LATEST PLAN IS FOR MINISTER BOURGES TO HOST STAG DINNER ON SEPTEMBER 28, SO THAT QUESTION OF WIVES IS OBE.

C. PRESS: SEE STATE 219220 FOR DRAFT OF PROPOSED WASHINGTON RELEASE. PER TELECON BETWEEN ASD LAITIN AND PAO, EMBASSY SHOULD PLAN FOR PRESS CONFERENCE WITH SECDEF ON MORNING OF OCTOBER 1, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR U.S.

D. COMPOSITION OF PARTY: SEE STATE 219841.

E. WE BELIEVE SUBJECTS FRENCH INTEND TO DISCUSS (PARA 1 REF B) WITH SECDEF WILL PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO RAISE SUBJECT OF INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ALLIED FORCES IN EUROPE BY VARIOUS MEANS, INCLUDING INCREASED ATTENTION TO RATIONALIZATION/STANDARDIZATION (REF C). SECDEF WOULD ALSO LIKE TO DISCUSS FRENCH TACTICAL NUCLEAR CONCEPTS AND PLANNING.

2. BIO INFO ON SCHLESINGER PARTY REQUESTED PARA 3 REF B HAS BEEN SENT TO EMBASSY BY POUCH AND A DUPLICATE SET BY INTERNATIONAL AIRMAIL. KISSINGER

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